United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application

U.S. Application Serial No. 97870771

Mark: STELLAR

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Applicant: Stellar Development Foundation

Reference/Docket No. N/A

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NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

Response deadline. File a response to this nonfinal Office action within three months of the "Issue date" below to avoid abandonment of the application. Review the Office action and respond using one of the links to the appropriate electronic forms in the "How to respond" section below.

Request an extension. For a fee, applicant may request one three-month extension of the response deadline prior to filing a response. The request must be filed within three months of the "Issue date" below. If the extension request is granted, the USPTO must receive applicant's response to this letter within six months of the "Issue date" to avoid abandonment of the application.

Issue date: November 17, 2023

This application was approved for publication on September 23, 2023. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.80. However, approval of the application has been withdrawn to address the issue(s) below. *See* TMEP §706.01. The trademark examining attorney apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause applicant.

IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS

The identification of goods is indefinite and must be clarified because the exact nature of the goods is unclear. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01.

In Class 009, "Downloadable computer software for digital assets, cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers" is not acceptable because that wording does not indicate the function of the software. *See* TMEP §1402.03(d). The applicant must amend the ID to indicate the function of the software.

Similarly, "Downloadable computer software for interaction with a blockchain" is not acceptable because that wording does not indicate the function of the software to allow a proper likelihood of confusion determination. In this case, the wording "for interaction with a blockchain" is not sufficient because it could indicate any use of software that interacts with a blockchain, and the applicant must clarify. For example, this software could be used for ages authenticated by NFTs, validating eCommerce transactions, managing medical patient data, or used as a computer game.

Applicant may adopt the following identification, if accurate:

International Class 009: Downloadable software development kits (SDK); Downloadable computer software for **{specify function of the software}** digital assets, cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for digital assets, cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers; Downloadable computer software for facilitating digital asset issuance and transactions on a blockchain; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for facilitating digital asset issuance and transactions on a blockchain; Downloadable computer software for enabling the creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset transactions on a blockchain; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for enabling the creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset transactions on a blockchain; Downloadable computer software for the submission, transmission, validation, storage, and retrieval of digital asset transaction data on a blockchain; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for the submission, transmission, validation, storage, and retrieval of digital asset transaction data on a blockchain; Downloadable computer software for ~~interaction~~ **{specify function of the software}** with a blockchain; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for ~~interaction~~ **{specify function of the software}** with a blockchain; Downloadable computer software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for payment processing and electronic funds transfers; Downloadable computer software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; Downloadable computer software for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts; Downloadable computer software for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets; Downloadable computer software for creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; Downloadable computer software for electronic data storage; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for electronic data storage; Downloadable computer software for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets; Downloadable software development kits (SDK) for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets

Applicant should note that the bolded language above is to indicate the examining attorney's suggestions. Applicant need not amend its identification other than where specified.

Scope advisory. Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. See 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods and/or services may not later be reinserted. See TMEP §1402.07(e). For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual. See TMEP §1402.04.

IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICES

The identification of services is indefinite and must be clarified because the exact nature of the services is unclear. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01. Applicant may adopt the following identification, if accurate:

In Class 036, "...financial and digital asset issuance and management" requires clarification as the digital assets. "Digital assets include photos, manuscripts, documents, data, cryptocurrencies, and much more." See Attachment. For example, financial asset management is classified in Class 036, the term "digital assets issuance and management" is broadly defined enough to include commercial trading of digital goods in Class 035 and financial management of financial instruments in Class 036. The applicant must clarify and re-classify, if necessary. In addition, the applicant must clarify the type of "financial asset" and "digital assets" being issued, e.g., securities, credit cards, prepaid gift cards.

Similarly, "...managing financial and digital asset transaction, exchange, and payment transaction processing services" and "...trading...digital assets" require clarification as to the "digital asset(s)." The applicant must clarify and re-classify, if necessary as this term could include both currency, which is a Class 36 financial instrument and digital artwork authenticated by non-fungible tokens, e.g., Downloadable image files containing digital assets in the nature of digital artwork authenticated by non-fungible tokens (NFTs) in Class 009.

"Providing a website featuring technical information in the field of... facilitating digital asset issuance and transactions on a blockchain... creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset transactions on a blockchain... trading...digital assets" also require clarification as the wording does not justify classification in Class 36 as the term "digital assets" includes non-financial items.

For example, "issuing" a digital asset is indefinite and could be in Class 042, e.g., computer programming services for creating goods authenticated by non-fungible tokens (NFTs) on a blockchain. "Transfer" of digital assets could be in Class 042 e.g., Software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in the storage, archival, preservation, organization and transfer of digital assets through complex metadata capture and actions associated with such content.

International Class 036: Financial services facilitated by means of a decentralized blockchain protocol, namely, financial **management of** digital assets**, namely, {specify financial items}** ~~issuance and management~~; financial services facilitated by means of a decentralized blockchain protocol, namely, ~~managing financial~~ **financial management** and digital asset **services, namely, {specify financial items, e.g, digital currency exchange services}** ~~transaction, exchange~~, and payment transaction processing services; peer-to-peer financial services facilitated by means of a decentralized blockchain

protocol, namely, ~~managing financial~~ **financial management**and digital asset **services, namely, {specify financial items, e.g, digital currency exchange services}** ~~transaction, exchange,~~ and payment transaction processing services; financial services consultancy in the nature of assisting third parties to integrate with decentralized blockchain payment verification services; charitable services' consultancy in the nature of financial consulting services in the field of planned giving for non-profit and charitable organizations; financial services consultancy in the nature of assisting third parties in designing, developing and implementing bulk disbursement and payment programs; providing financial grants to third parties for the development and integration of services offered on decentralized blockchain protocols; providing a website and featuring information in the field of financial services facilitated by means of a decentralized blockchain protocol, namely, information regarding financial and digital asset transaction, exchange, and payment transaction processing services; financial services facilitated by means of a decentralized blockchain protocol, namely, trading cryptocurrency and digital assets, **namely, {specify financial items}**; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of financial management of digital assets, **namely, {specify financial items}** cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers; **providing a website featuring technical information in the field of facilitating digital asset, namely, {specify financial items}** ~~issuance and~~ **transactions on a blockchain**; **providing a website featuring technical information in the field of creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset, namely, {specify financial items} transactions on a blockchain**; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of payment transaction processing and electronic funds transfers; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of trading cryptocurrency and **digital assets, namely, {specify financial items}**

In Class 038, the services listed as "Peer-to-peer network computer services, namely,…storage of financial and digital asset data via computer terminals, servers, nodes, and electronic devices…providing a website featuring technical information in the field of electronic data storage…providing a website featuring technical information in the field of…electronically storing cryptocurrency and digital assets" are mis-classified and should be in Class 042.

International Class 038: ~~Peer-to-peer network computer services, namely, electronic transmission and storage of financial and digital asset data via computer terminals, servers, nodes, and electronic devices~~; transmission of financial and digital asset data by electronic communications networks; ~~providing a website featuring technical information in the field of electronic data storage~~; ~~providing a website featuring technical information in the field of sending, receiving, and electronically storing cryptocurrency and digital assets~~

The Class 042 wording "providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets…providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts…providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets" is indefinite and overbroad and must be clarified. Information services are classified according to the service-related subject matter of the information service. See TMEP §1402.11(b). For proper classification, the subject matter of the technical information must be set forth so that it connects the content to a technical information service, e.g., technical information in the field of engineering (in Class 042), power generation (in Class 040). Because all information educates, characterizing it as educational is not enough to justify a Class 041 designation. Here, the subject matter of is too vague to justify classification in Class 042 and potentially identifies service-related subject matters in multiple classes.

Similarly, "providing a website featuring technical information in the field of sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets" is indefinite and overbroad and must be clarified. See TMEP §§1401.02(a), 1402.11(b). While technical information in the field of the storage of cryptocurrency would be in Class 042, the information about the trading of it would be in Class 036. For example, the technical information about "sending" and "receiving" digital assets could be in 036, 038, or 042. Please clarify the entire phrase and re-classify, if necessary. Also, as indicated previously, the term "digital assets" is broad enough to include various types of goods, so the classification of technical information regarding them is unclear.

International Class 042: Computer programming and software design; computer software consultancy; consultancy in the field of software design; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for financial management of digital assets, cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for financial management of digital assets, cryptocurrency networks, blockchains, and distributed ledgers; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for facilitating digital asset issuance and transactions on a blockchain; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for facilitating digital asset issuance and transactions on a blockchain; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for enabling the creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset transactions on a blockchain; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for enabling the creation, submission, transfer, and validation of digital asset transactions on a blockchain; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the submission, transmission, validation, storage, and retrieval of digital asset transaction data on a blockchain; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for the submission, transmission, validation, storage, and retrieval of digital asset transaction data on a blockchain; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for the submission, transmission, validation, storage, and retrieval of digital asset transaction data on a blockchain; providing temporary use of online non- downloadable software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software **development for developing software for** payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for payment processing and electronic funds transfers for cryptocurrency and digital assets; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software **development for developing software** for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for developing, interacting with, and reading from smart contracts; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of the software **development for developing software**for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for creating stored value accounts and digital wallets; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; application service provider featuring

application programming interface (API) software for creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for electronic data storage; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for electronic data storage; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets; providing temporary use of non-downloadable web-based decentralized applications (DApps) for financial and digital asset issuance and management, managing financial and digital asset transaction, exchange, and payment transaction processing services, trading cryptocurrency and digital assets, and storage and management of digital assets, for graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for creating graphical user interfaces and applications built on or to interact with a blockchain network; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of electronic data storage; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for electronic data storage; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for electronic data storage; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of **software development for developing software for** sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets, **namely, {specify}**; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software for sending, receiving, storing, and trading cryptocurrency and digital assets; providing temporary use of non-downloadable web-based decentralized applications (DApps) for financial and digital asset issuance and management, managing financial and digital asset transaction, exchange, and payment transaction processing services, trading cryptocurrency and digital assets, and storage and management of digital assets; **Peer-to-peer network computer services, namely, electronic transmission and storage of financial and digital asset data via computer terminals, servers, nodes, and electronic devices; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of electronic data storage; providing a website featuring technical information in the field of sending, receiving, and electronically storing cryptocurrency and digital assets**

Applicant should note that the bolded language above is to indicate the examining attorney's suggestions. Applicant need not amend its identification other than where specified.

Scope advisory. Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. See 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods and/or services may not later be reinserted. See TMEP §1402.07(e). For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual. See TMEP §1402.04.

RESPONSES

Please call or email the assigned trademark examining attorney with questions about this Office action. Although an examining attorney cannot provide legal advice, the examining attorney can provide additional explanation about the refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) in this Office action. *See* TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

The USPTO does not accept emails as responses to Office actions; however, emails can be used for

informal communications and are included in the application record. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(c), 2.191; TMEP §§304.01-.02, 709.04-.05.

How to respond. File a **response form to this nonfinal Office action** or file a **request form for an extension of time to file a response**.

/Cheryl Clayton/
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Cheryl.Clayton@USPTO.GOV

RESPONSE GUIDANCE

- **Missing the deadline for responding to this letter will cause the application to abandon.** A response or extension request must be received by the USPTO before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) system availability could affect an applicant's ability to timely respond. For help resolving technical issues with TEAS, email TEAS@uspto.gov.

- **Responses signed by an unauthorized party** are not accepted and can **cause the application to abandon.** If applicant does not have an attorney, the response must be signed by the individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with legal authority to bind a juristic applicant. If applicant has an attorney, the response must be signed by the attorney.

- If needed, **find contact information for the supervisor** of the office or unit listed in the signature block.

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Digital Asset: Meaning, Types, and Importance

By **JAKE FRANKENFIELD** Updated September 09, 2023

Reviewed by **AMILCAR CHAVARRIA**

Fact checked by **MARCUS REEVES**

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What Is a Digital Asset?

A digital asset is generally anything that is created and stored digitally, is identifiable and discoverable, and has or provides value. Digital assets have become more popular and valuable as technological advances integrate into our personal and professional lives. Data, images, video, written content, and more have long been considered digital assets with ownership rights.

Most digital items, like a company's brand, can be assigned a value - monetary

Most digital items, like a company's brand, can be assigned a value—monetary or intangible. Some digital items might only be valuable to the creator or one person, such as a family picture on your phone taken at a gathering. Others could be valuable to a much wider audience.

In the past, digital assets such as data or scanned documents were owned and used by organizations to realize value. However, digital assets were again redefined when blockchain and cryptocurrency were introduced in 2009. Anything in digital form became something that could be used to create value via tokenization on a blockchain.

Learn more about digital assets and how they are changing how we view ownership, value, and the way we interact with each other.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A digital asset is anything digital that has value, establishes ownership, and is discoverable.
- Digital assets include photos, manuscripts, documents, data, cryptocurrencies, and much more.
- Digital assets are increasingly important because they are becoming more a part of our professional and personal lives while continuing to be essential for businesses and governments.

FAST FACT

Two popular examples of digital assets are non-fungible tokens (NTFs) and digitally rendered images. Each is digital and has the potential to create value.

Understanding Digital Assets

Digital assets have morphed into more than the words, pictures, videos, audio, and documents we associate with the term. When Bitcoin was introduced in 2009, it brought with it the blockchain—a distributed public ledger secured by a consensus mechanism. The concept was not new because data itself had become a valuable digital asset that required security measures, management, and storage. Distributed ledgers and the information contained in them had been around for some time.
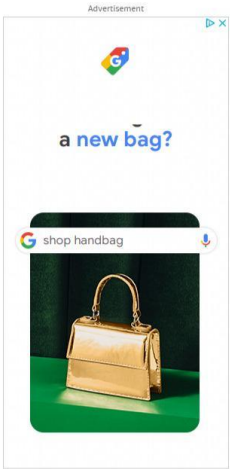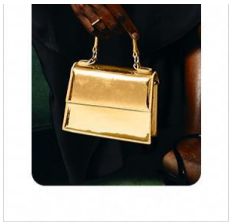
Maintaining wealth involves smart planning. Check out these tips on how to plan for future financial concerns.

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However, it was new to most people who lived and worked outside of data science, management, analysis, or any other field requiring large distributed data networks.

For a digital asset to be considered an asset, it must first have the potential to create value in that it can be used in a manner that generates value for the owner. The digital asset should then be able to transfer ownership through purchase, gifting, or other means of giving the rights to someone else, along with the value the item can bring. It must also be discoverable or stored somewhere that it can be found.
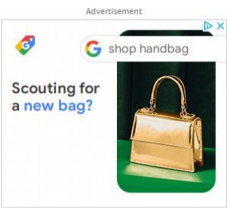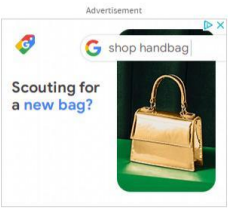
> ⚡ **Important:** Digital assets now encompass everything from words to fractionalized ownership in a corporation or real estate through tokenization.

Types of Digital Assets

There are many different types of digital assets. Here is a list of many of the familiar ones:

- Photos
- Documents
- Videos
- Books
- Audio/Music
- Animations
- Illustrations
- Manuscripts
- Emails and email accounts
- Logos
- Metadata
- Content
- Social media accounts
- Gaming accounts

Newer digital assets are based on blockchain or similar technologies:

Newer digital assets are based on blockchain or similar technologies:

- Nonfungible tokens
- Cryptocurrency
- Tokens
- Crypto Assets
- Tokenized Assets
- Security Tokens
- Central Bank Digital Currencies

Importance of Digital Assets

When you look at a list of the digital items that can be considered assets, it becomes clear that our lives are more digitally based than ever. For example, when we want to learn about something, we turn to digitally hosted information because it is quicker and easier than driving to a library, hoping they have the resources you need.

Our photos, entertainment, and important documents are mostly in digital form. Businesses and governments keep and store data and information, all of which have different values depending on how they can be used.

When investors, governments, and the general public became aware of blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies in the 2010s, digital assets took on an entirely new meaning. Cryptocurrencies joined the list of digital assets because people placed a value on them, whether they were intended to be used as assets or not.
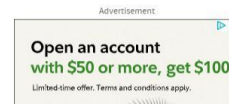
Example of Digital Asset's Impact

No matter what you do, your life is filled with digital assets. Here is an example of a digital asset enhanced day:

You wake up one morning and see that your favorite runningback has posted a sports video token of his winning touchdown in last year's season, so you purchase it like a trading card from the past. You now own part of that moment.

> **FAST FACT**
>
> *Digital assets have become significant enough that digital asset management (DAM) service providers have emerged. DAMs provide digital security for businesses, allowing them to securely store, organize, and quickly access their digital assets.*

At work, you used a cryptocurrency to buy sales data to analyze a specific

market and sent a digital presentation of your findings to your boss, who forwarded it to management. It allowed them to make critical decisions and was filed away in the company's digital storage vault.

On your way home, you were caught in a traffic jam and managed to take a once-in-a-lifetime video on your phone of the eagle that flew in your car window and sat down in your passenger seat. When you get home, you upload the video on an NFT marketplace and sell a few hundred NFTs for $1 a piece.

You then relax before bed by drawing on your graphics tablet. You draw the best stick figure sword fight you've ever seen and upload it to the same NFT marketplace, thinking it will have value someday to someone. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to you, your report was leaked to a competing firm, which is planning to use it to develop a competitive advantage over your company.

What Are Digital Assets?

A digital asset is anything in digital form that can create value. You can still create something digitally, but it is not a digital asset if it has no value.

What Are the Types of Digital Assets?

There are many types of digital assets. Some of the most well-known are videos, images, documents, cryptocurrencies, and digital books.

Is Bitcoin a Digital Asset?

Regardless of how different people define and view Bitcoin, it is a digital asset because it has value.

The Bottom Line

Digital assets are digitized items with value. Whether we see and acknowledge them or not, they are everywhere in our lives. The only way to not be exposed to them is to fully disconnect yourself from the internet and power off all of your devices.

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Take the Next Step to Invest

SERVICE	Vanguard	J.P.Morgan WEALTH MANAGEMENT	Betterment
NAME	Vanguard Personal Advisor	J.P. Morgan Personal Advisors	Betterment
DESCRIPTION	Get a customized financial plan. Start the conversation with a Vanguard advisor.	Personalized financial plans from fiduciary advisors. No advisory fee for 6 months.	Investing built to help you weather any market. *Investing involves risk.*
	LEARN MORE	LEARN MORE	LEARN MORE

Related Terms

What Is Total Value Locked in Cryptocurrency?

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Cryptocurrency Explained With Pros and Cons for Investment

A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography and is difficult to counterfeit. more

Cryptocurrency Security Token: Definition, Forms, Investing In

A cryptocurrency security token is a digital representation of ownership in a company or an asset and is used to raise capital for enterprise and business purposes. more

Cryptocurrency Wallet: What It Is, How It Works, Types, Security

A cryptocurrency wallet is a software program that stores your cryptocurrency keys and lets you access your coins. Discover how crypto wallets work. more

Non-Fungible Token (NFT): What It Means and How It Works

NFTs are cryptographic tokens that cannot be replicated. They can be used for transactions, have created new markets, and may have more use cases in the future. more

Partner Links

Blockchain Facts: What Is It, How It Works, and How It Can Be Used

A blockchain is a digitally distributed, decentralized, public ledger that exists across a network. It is most noteworthy in its use with cryptocurrencies and NFTs. [more](#)

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United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

USPTO OFFICIAL NOTICE

Office Action (Official Letter) has issued
on November 17, 2023 for
U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97870771

A USPTO examining attorney has reviewed your trademark application and issued an Office action. You must respond to this Office action to avoid your application abandoning. Follow the steps below.

(1) Read the Office action. This email is NOT the Office action.

(2) Respond to the Office action by the deadline using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Your response, or extension request, must be received by the USPTO on or before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Otherwise, your application will be abandoned. See the Office action itself regarding how to respond.

(3) Direct general questions about using USPTO electronic forms, the USPTO website, the application process, the status of your application, and whether there are outstanding deadlines to the Trademark Assistance Center (TAC).

After reading the Office action, address any question(s) regarding the specific content to the USPTO examining attorney identified in the Office action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE
- **Check the status** of your application periodically in the Trademark Status & Document Retrieval (TSDR) database to avoid missing critical deadlines.

- **Update your correspondence email address** to ensure you receive important USPTO notices about your application.

- **Beware of trademark-related scams**. Protect yourself from people and companies that may try to take financial advantage of you. Private companies may call you and pretend to be the USPTO or may send you communications that resemble official USPTO documents to trick you. We will never request your credit card number or social security number over the phone. Verify the correspondence originated from us by using your serial number in our database, TSDR, to confirm that it appears under the "Documents" tab, or contact the Trademark Assistance Center.

- **Hiring a U.S.-licensed attorney.** If you do not have an attorney and are not required to

have one under the trademark rules, we encourage you to hire a U.S.-licensed attorney specializing in trademark law to help guide you through the registration process. The USPTO examining attorney is not your attorney and cannot give you legal advice, but rather works for and represents the USPTO in trademark matters.